

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Jesse Gomez and his lovely wife, and good friend of mine, Rosemarie Gomez.

Jesse was elected East Chicago city councilman in 1963, making him the first person of Hispanic descent to be elected to political office in East Chicago. Jesse's time in office opened political doors for the Hispanic community throughout the city and northwest Indiana.

Jesse's wife, Rosemarie, was elected to replace him on the council, making her the first Hispanic female to serve in political office in East Chicago. Rosemarie dedicated much of her time to the East Chicago Public Library, volunteering countless hours to help support readers and future leaders. Rosemarie was also very proud to help decorate an annual Mexican-themed Christmas tree for the library's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people, including the extraordinary contributions of citizens such as Jesse and Rosemarie Gomez.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, crisis after crisis after crisis.

We now know that over 2.1 million people have illegally entered this country this year. That is 1.7 million who have been apprehended, the highest number ever on record. And 400,000 additional gotaways that the administration is now owning up to; yet we know nothing about them, we know nothing about their intent for this country, we know nothing about what they are doing.

And more fentanyl has been seized by CBP at our southern border to kill seven times over every single American.

Even as migrant caravans with thousands of migrants march toward our border, this administration continues to mislead and deny that we have a crisis.

I am extremely concerned about who is facilitating these caravans and what organizations are involved in the drug and human trafficking along the way.

The blame for this crisis falls squarely on the Biden administration and his open-border policies. Biden has abandoned Texans, and this administration's blatant disregard and incompetence for border security is endangering every single American. Let me again say that the President is abandoning not just Texans, but every American.

This administration needs to get back to work, and I urge the Democrats to come to the table.

RECOGNIZING WAYNE METRO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, a service organization based in Wayne County, Michigan, in my district.

Today, they celebrate 50 years of assisting southeastern Michigan's most vulnerable populations, a truly remarkable milestone.

Wayne Metro's staff and organizational leadership's holistic approach to serving our communities translates to exceptional service that has put many families on the path to a better quality of life.

Whether it is connecting a resident to emergency housing, helping with utility payments, or financial coaching, Wayne Metro has been a trusted agency for so many of my residents.

Their longevity is a testament to the trust in their reputation as a responsive and caring community partner in service. It has always been one of the main reasons I work very closely with them.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Wayne Metro Community Action Agency on 50 years of service and best wishes on many more to come.

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HONORING TROOPER TED BENDA

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the passing of a hero with deep roots in the tight-knit community of Waukon, Iowa, Iowa State Patrol Trooper Ted Benda.

On October 14, Trooper Benda was on duty, answering the calls of citizens in northeast Iowa, when he experienced a tragic accident. He later passed from his injuries on October 20.

This is the devastating loss of a father, a husband, a son, a friend, a mentor, a dedicated public servant who made it his life's mission to keep his community safe in Iowa.

This tragedy is a reminder that brave law enforcement officers often sacrifice for a purpose greater than themselves. So I join all Iowans in mourning the loss of Trooper Benda, and my heart is with his family, his friends, and fellow troopers during this very difficult time.

HONORING CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez and to urge the Senate to pass H.R. 5142 to give our Nation's servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, the recognition they deserve.

H.R. 5142 would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, our Nation's highest honor, to the 13 heroes in uniform we lost that day, including my constituent, Marine Corporal Hunter Lopez from Indio.

Corporal Lopez gave his life to save the lives of others. In fact, just moments before the explosion went off, he had pulled two little girls out of the fleeing crowd, preventing them from being crushed and saving their lives. Because of him, two children now have a future and the promise of a new life, many thousands reached safety, and many others have a reason to hope.

And because of his efforts and the work of his fellow servicemembers, over 120,000 of our fellow Americans and allies were able to evacuate, and our Armed Forces completed the largest airlift in human history.

Madam Speaker, we must honor their sacrifice to our Nation. We must award them the Congressional Gold Medal.

HEAT YOUR HOME TAX

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the heat your home tax that Democrats are adding to the partisan reconciliation package during our country's crippling economic crisis.

Americans are paying the most for a gallon of gas in 7 years, and now the Federal Government is warning Americans that their home heating bills could cost 54 percent more this winter compared to last.

This harmful provision authorizes the EPA to assess a \$1,500 tax per ton of methane emissions on energy producers, transmission, storage, processors, import and export, and pipelines. As a result, gas prices will continue to skyrocket, heating bills will increase up to \$242 per year, and thousands of jobs could be eliminated in the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans will physically feel the effects of Democrats' senseless tax hike when choosing whether they can afford to heat their homes this winter. Instead of addressing our country's energy crisis at hand, Democrats are actively working to make it worse.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider these chilling effects and vote against the Democrats' reckless reconciliation package.

PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1